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## BSUers discover lessons behind missions

By Tim Nicholas  
MBCB staff writer

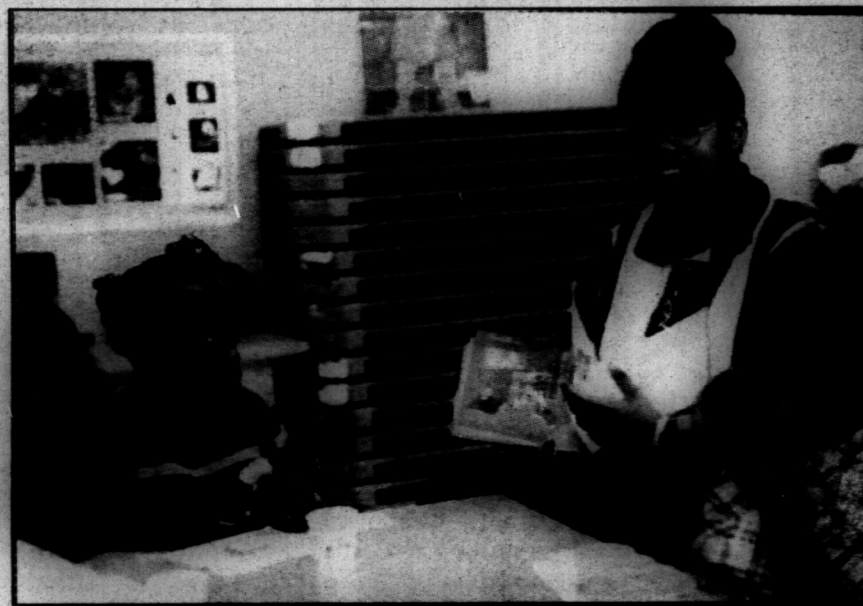
*Editor's note: Spring break! Sleep late? Not for hundreds of Mississippi Baptist Student Union (BSU) members who scattered across the country during their spring break to take advantage of missions opportunities. BSUers traveled to Maryland and Delaware, where Mississippi Baptists enjoy a partnership relationship with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, to participate in partnership missions projects involving on-campus witnessing, music, inner city ministry, and church and camp renovations. Following is the final installment of a three-part series.*

Jessica Gilbert of Meridian, a student at Meridian Community College (MCC), captured the essence of reaching out to people by participating in missions. "They give back more to me than I could have ever given to them."

Gilbert traveled with seven other students and her MCC Baptist Student Union (BSU) director, Jennifer Colburn, during their spring break to work in a mission center in inner city Baltimore.

The group restocked the community pantry at Canton Baptist Church, painted several areas of the church, engaged in neighborhood cleanup including the removal of graffiti, and worked in a boys and girls club.

Gilbert's understanding of the essence of missions comes to most of the students who ostensibly "give up" some-



**BIBLE STORIES** — Shakina Wheeler of Shreveport, a Baptist Student Union (BSU) member at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, reads a story to children at the child care center operated by Seventh Baptist Church in Baltimore. Miller was one of hundreds of Mississippi BSUers who raised their own funds to participate in spring break mission trips to Maryland and Delaware. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

thing, such as a spring break, a little money, some physical labor, or a little sleep, to help those in need. The volunteers invariably say they are happy with their choices.

"Where did my spring break go?" asked MCC student Tyler Miller of Meridian. "I'll say with pride I went to Baltimore."

Miller said he had been thinking that he could use the week to catch up on school work, but admitted he probably wouldn't have gotten much school work done. "Here, I've been productive. I didn't know that missions could be so much fun. Time has passed so quickly here (in Baltimore), he said."

Josh Hamblin of Blue Springs, a student at Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville, worked in a boutique operated by Seventh Baptist Church in Baltimore.

"You feel God is pulling at you to do something," he said.

Hamblin was part of a group of BSUers spearheaded by students from the Mississippi University for Women (MUW) in Columbus, that worked in a medical clinic and child care program related to Seventh Church — where Southern Baptist missions pioneer Annie Armstrong was baptized.

Armstrong is the namesake for Southern Baptists' annual Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

MUW nursing student Mia Turner of Fulton said that school is stressful and "I knew

this trip would be more beneficial than staying at home."

She said the clinic work was a real encouragement for her, seeing the doctors and nurses all working as volunteers. "I realized there are places of the same type that we need to be plugging into Mississippi," she pointed out.

Nancy Aulds, BSU director at MUW, said the mission trip contained some unusual events.

"You should have been here yesterday to see the lady who kept hitting herself in the forehead at the boutique. God knew this was where we needed to be (to help people in need)."

A total of 15 students from Southwest Mississippi Community College (SWMCC) in Summit and their sponsor, BSU director Ed Abels, worked during spring break in Wilmington, Del., at Bethany Baptist Church and its Spanish mission, New Hope Baptist Center.

According to Adrienne Garner (center) of Magnolia, and Jill Albritton of Bogue Chitto help paint a downstairs hallway during their spring break mission trip to Bethany Baptist Church and its Spanish mission, New Hope Center, both of which are located in Wilmington, Del. (BR special photo)

translators, performed music, taught crafts, conducted a Bible study, and led a prayer walk in the Spanish mission's neighborhood.

The BSUers also painted, witnessed on the streets, and helped with area cleanup.

Abels said local Baptist leaders prepared well for the BSUers, who "always did what they were asked to do. Parents, home churches, and SWMCC can take pride in the service and testimony these BSU 'kids' offered in Delaware," he said.

"It was awesome to see that God was really using us to help at this center," said SWMCC student Della Hamilton of Summit.

Mississippi BSUers personally raised funds to pay their way to Maryland and Delaware for the spring break mission trips.

For more information on BSU ministries in Mississippi, contact Weaver McCracken, Collegiate Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3302 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail:wmccracken@mbcb.org.

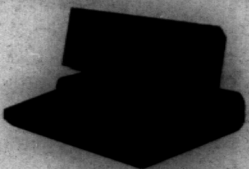


**SPRUCING UP** — Southwest Mississippi Community College Baptist Student Union members Della Hamilton (back) of Summit, Adrienne Garner (center) of Magnolia, and Jill Albritton of Bogue Chitto help paint a downstairs hallway during their spring break mission trip to Bethany Baptist Church and its Spanish mission, New Hope Center, both of which are located in Wilmington, Del. (BR special photo)



**STOCKING UP** — Jennifer Colburn (left), Baptist Student Union director at Meridian Community College (MCC) in Meridian, assists MCC students Jessica Gilbert (center) of Meridian and Tyler Miller of Meridian in stocking the community pantry at Canton Baptist Church in inner-city Baltimore. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

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# Our simple responsibility

One of the great mysteries of our faith has to be the relentless, 2,000-year-old effort to make the message of Jesus Christ more complicated than it actually is. Jesus was a simple man with a simple mission: to atone for the sins of all people and offer a lost and dying world eternal salvation through himself.

That's John 3:16 in a nutshell, as if John 3:16 could possibly be put into language that was any plainer. God, who knows everything, made his plan easy to understand for people who know practically nothing.

Oh, we think we know a lot. We think we know enough to question the truth about Jesus and whether he really existed at all. It is as if we are more interested in idle speculation about the clothes he wore and the company he kept, rather than in fulfilling the Great Commission that he left for us (Matt. 28:18-20).

Seminaries and conferences and workshops are filled year-round with animated patter about whether Jesus actually turned water into wine, or if it was magician's sleight-of-hand that converted someone's lunch into a feast for thousands of people, or which crucifixion site outside Jerusalem is the real McCoy.

Are you an amillennialist? Dispensational? Five-point Calvinist? Did the Garden of Eden actually exist? Was the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah caused by a giant meteorite falling to earth? How great was the Great Flood?

Must all these questions be answered before we get on with the real work of Christianity? Absolutely not, but one wouldn't know that by listening to all the heated psychobabble that passes for modern debate.

The Jesus Seminar is an excellent example of the intellectual overkill that has so compli-

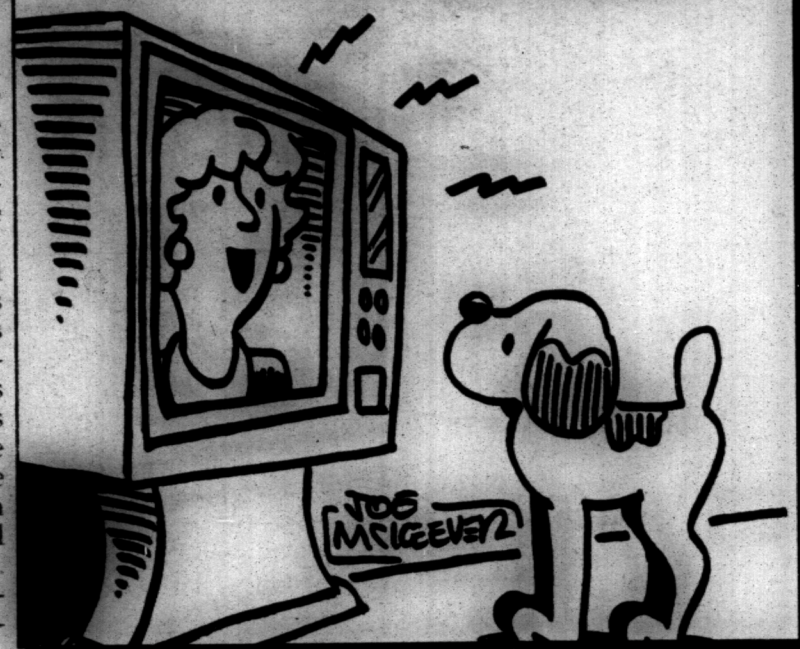
cated Jesus' simple message. The Jesus Seminar is a group of carefully selected (read: liberal) religious "scholars" who meet occasionally to decide on behalf of Christendom which portions of the Bible are true and which are fiction.

What's left after such a pointless exercise is an indecipherable mishmash of yes, no, and maybe opinions on the life of Jesus, and there are plenty of groups like the Jesus Seminar that justify their mission (and contributions) by complicating the simple message of Jesus.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), an animal rights group, recently posted a billboard that depicted Jesus surrounded by vegetables and sporting an orange slice halo. PETA alleges on the billboard that Jesus was a vegetarian, and therefore all his followers should be, too. No one can say with certainty that Jesus was a vegetarian, and the Bible does contain passages that seem to indicate Jesus had no qualms about the consumption of meat.

However, is that really important to settle before we get on with our assignment? A few weeks ago in a Mississippi town, a FAITH team was returning from a night of visitation when they made one last stop to witness to a lone man they encountered. The man responded excitedly, "I've been praying for God to send someone to talk with me!"

**"IT'S GOING TO BE COLD TONIGHT. DON'T FORGET TO WRAP YOUR PIPES, BRING IN YOUR PETS, AND EXPECT SOME CALLERS FROM THE LOCAL BAPTIST CHURCH!"**



On the Sunday just past, he walked the aisle and asked to be baptized into the fellowship of believers.

It's that simple. It really is. Each one of us has the responsibility to share the simple message of salvation with as many lost people as we can. It's the way Jesus did it.

Let's not add anything, and let's not take anything away. Let's just take the mission that was left for us and get it done before Jesus comes again — and he is coming again.

In the year 2000, as a Southern Baptist, I am joining other Baptists from around the world in celebrating the 75th anniversary of The Cooperative Program (CP) — the most effective and efficient denominational mission support program in the world. In 1925, the name The Cooperative Program was given to the plan of one unified appeal for mission support with giving by individuals, churches, state conventions, and the Southern Baptist Convention. The theme for the 2000 anniversary year is **Partners In The Harvest**.

Please allow me to count my blessings derived through CP:

♦ As a partner in the harvest I am obedient to our Lord's command in the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20).

♦ As a partner in the harvest I am privileged to teach Bible Study in Sunday School and WMU. My husband, Dave, and I have taught Experienceing God continuously since 1991. What a joy to see people grow in Christ and put into practice the truths learned through Bible study and discipleship training.

♦ As a partner in the harvest I have participated in mission activities from childhood to the present. I learned how vital CP is when my son Ben Nash, his wife Sandra, and two of our grandchildren went as medical missionaries to Africa. Also, my daughter Trudy served as a

## GUEST OPINION:



### I'm a 'Partner in the Harvest'

By Sue Nash Dockery, member  
Broadmoor Church, Jackson

summer missionary in Africa. Through CP, Southern Baptists helped provide for them.

♦ As a partner in the harvest I support our six Southern Baptist seminaries. A part of every dollar I give through my church goes to help these seminaries. I have grown spiritually from the preaching of the Word of God by ministers who have been and are being trained in these educational institutions.

♦ As a partner in the harvest I support our Mississippi Baptist colleges. I have been the recipient of blessings from Clarke College, where my parents, Tom and Edna Everett, taught and lived in faculty housing on campus. Two

of my sisters attended college there. My father, a son and daughter-in-law, a granddaughter, a son-in-law, a sister, two nieces, and a nephew have all graduated from Mississippi College. My mother attended Woman's College, now William Carey College.

♦ As a partner in the harvest I know that I have a part in supporting the Annuity Board which extends financial

help to ministers or widows of ministers and employees in times of illness, disability, emergencies, retirement, and death.

♦ As a partner in the harvest I am encouraged by the work of the Mississippi Baptist

Christian Action Commission and the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, as they help southern Baptists apply biblical, moral principles in every area and relationship of life.

♦ As a partner in the harvest I participate in volunteer missions projects both overseas and here in Mississippi. I am deeply conscious of the value of cooperation when we work together toward one common goal: telling the world about Jesus.

♦ As a partner in the harvest I serve on the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and have the unique experience of being a part of the decision-making team of Mississippi Baptists.

♦ As a partner in the harvest I have the privilege to pray for the lost, and for laborers in the harvest around the world. I can be consistent in sharing my Christian testimony and strive to live it every day.

My faithful giving to CP, along with giving by other members of the 2000 Southern Baptist churches in Mississippi and over 40,000 churches nationwide, enables us to do something bigger together than we can do individually.

The result is a world-wide harvest of souls for Jesus Christ, our Lord. Join me as a partner in the harvest and let us cooperatively pray, go, and give extravagantly!



**PARTNERS  
IN THE HARVEST**

Matthew 9:37-38

# Missionaries appointed for world service

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — When she joined a volunteer missions project in Guatemala in 1997, LuSinda Haskins Ray of Oklahoma sensed God calling her to become a career missionary, but she struggled with how a young, widowed mother could possibly fulfill such a call.

"God's only response was, 'Be obedient to what I have called you to do, and I will make a way,'" she said.

Then last January she met Matthew Spann, a Southern Baptist missionary to Russia and a recent widower. They fell in love and plan to marry in May.

"God graciously brought our lives alongside each other, filling a hole that had been left in our hearts and in our families' lives," Ray said. "Our losses are hard to understand, but God has generously redeemed them. When I look back on my life and see what God has done to work out his calling in my life, I am humbled and stand in amazement of an awesome God."

Ray is among Southern Baptists' 38 newest international missionaries, appointed March 31 in services at Travis Avenue Church in Fort Worth, Texas. The appointment service capped Global Missions Week at Southwestern Seminary, which included missionaries speaking in classes and International Mission Board (IMB) leaders preaching in chapel services.

In addition to the 38, three additional apprentice missionaries were presented during the appointment service. Apprentice missionaries meet all the requirements for career appointment, except for ministry experience, which they gain overseas during their three-year term.

In the appointment service, the new IMB missionaries testified how God's call to overseas missions today comes in a variety



**PREPARING TO GO** — Thirty-eight new Southern Baptist missionaries say they heard God's call to missions in both conventional and unconventional ways. Some of the new workers, appointed March 31 at Travis Avenue Church in Fort Worth, cited events as traditional as an Acteens convention or a visit to Glorieta, but others heard God's call in ways as unusual as an e-mail relationship with a missionary overseas or a backpacking and canoeing trip into Central America. (BP photo by Sandy King)

ety of ways — some as traditional as an Acteens convention or a visit to Glorieta, a LifeWay conference center in New Mexico, but others as unconventional as an email relationship with a missionary overseas or a backpacking and canoeing trip into Central America.

Volunteer missions projects overseas and taking the "Experiencing God" course, meanwhile, continue to stand out as primary vehicles for leading people to missions service overseas.

And just as the means for the call varies, so do the professional backgrounds of the candidates. New missionaries today no longer fit the stereotype of pastors and church staff and their spouses.

Among the 38 appointed were a chiropractor, a childcare center director, a businessman, a lawyer, a doctor, a teacher, a nurse, a clinical technician, a former independent missionary, and others representing a variety of professional backgrounds, including the pastorate and church staff positions.

much you are needed here in America but something compels you, like Paul, to turn your back on all the advantages of staying in your comfort zone in order to carry the gospel to those Christ died to save and who are still waiting for someone to proclaim to them that God loves the whole world."

Rankin also warned the new missionaries to be prepared for their missions calling to be "dynamic."

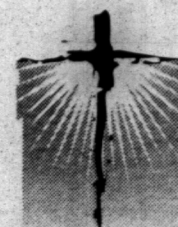
"God has revealed his will for you, and you have responded in obedience. That's why you are going to places like Budapest, Bashkortostan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, and cities in China," he said, "but never forget that God's will is dynamic. It is not a once for all call, and that's it," Rankin said. "That's

IMB President Jerry Rankin likened them to the apostle Paul, who made what appeared to others to be "foolish decisions" but which God used in dramatic and mighty ways to spread the gospel throughout the world.

Paul could have been a "prominent leader of the early church in Jerusalem, been at the forefront of the harvest that was sweeping Jews into the kingdom and gained an unimaginable reputation for himself, if he had not had such a passion for the Gentiles," Rankin said.

"How foolish to give all of that up to traipse about over wilderness and desert, to be attacked by wild animals, shipwrecked, subjected to hunger, deprivation, to be misunderstood, stoned, beaten, and imprisoned, when he could have stayed in Jerusalem and Antioch and enjoyed a comfortable and successful pastorate!" he said.

"Many people could consider you equally foolish," Rankin told the new missionaries. "Some of you have family that just cannot understand why you would leave a successful career and an affluent lifestyle. Your church has provided well for you and reminded you how



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why he demands that we walk by faith, develop a relationship of trust and in submissiveness follow his lordship. God has a right to direct your life anywhere and at anytime."



Looking back

10 years ago

David Montoya, pastor of First Church, Gravette, Ark. and a member of the 1990 SBC nominating committee, announces he will challenge the committee's report at the SBC annual meeting June 12-14 in New Orleans. "I was told ... this committee would be inclusive ... it was not," he said.

20 years ago

Louie Farmer is retiring after 34 years in Baptist student work. Director of the BSU at the University of Southern Mississippi since 1954, Farmer began his ministry in student work at Clarke College in 1946. A Texas native, he is a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Seminary.

50 years ago

Betty Cooper of Mississippi College, Maurine Sparkman of Blue Mountain College, Bill Causey of Mississippi College, and Jean Faulkner of Holmes Junior College, have been selected Baptist Student Union summer missionaries for 1950. Approximately \$2,000 is needed to send all four students.

## Mega-churches to partner

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Officials with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) are hoping today's mega-churches will beget mega-churches in other cities. Five Southern Baptist churches thus far are partnering with the Southern Baptist Convention agency to start "flagship" or "regional" churches in four large cities with the ultimate goal of reaching every people group in those cities with the gospel.

The sponsoring churches and the cities where leaders will plant new churches: Thomas Road Church, Lynchburg, Va. — Chicago; First Church, Orlando, Fla. — Philadelphia; First Church, Woodstock, Ga. — Las Vegas; Prestonwood Church, Dallas — Boston; and First Church, Euless, Texas — Boston. About 15 other mega-churches are considering partnerships.

Two of the five sponsoring churches — Thomas Road and First Church, Woodstock — have already called a church planter to pastor the new churches.

Southern Baptists have a presence in each of the cities where a flagship church is sought. For example, the Chicago area has four Baptist associations with more than 200 Southern Baptist churches. The largest of the four, Chicago Metro Baptist Association, is composed predominantly of African American and ethnic churches. The other three are in suburban areas to the north and west.

**READY TO SERVE** — Mark and Kristie Aderholt of Fort Worth, share how God called them to career overseas missions. They were among 38 new missionaries appointed during an International Mission Board appointment service March 31 at Travis Avenue Church in Fort Worth. The Aderholts will serve in the Central and Eastern Europe region. (BP photo by Sandy King)

# Performing Arts Fest posts second record

By Tim Nicholas  
MBCB staff writer

The 2000 Mississippi Christian Performing Arts Festival, held March 24-25 at First Church, Brandon, registered a record 514 participants.

Coordinator Harvey Ellis, consultant in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), said this year's

total surpassed last year's total of 425 participants — also a record number.

Classes ranged from puppetry to drama to clowning to recreation, all with an eye toward evangelism.

The classes offered opportunities to teach Christ in a unique way, said Ellis. "The people involved are teaching discipleship (and) telling stories about how you can grow in relationship to Christ."

The festival allows adults and youth to see others excited about sharing Christ creatively, he said. "It encourages them to go back to their church, home, or schools and live out their lives in the same way."

About one-half of the participants at this year's conference were adults, noted Ellis. Previously, nearly two-thirds were youth.

He pointed out that although three conference leaders were from out of state, the remainder of the leaders were from Mississippi. "This shows the wealth of creative worship leadership we have in our state," he said.

One home-grown leader, Keith Burchfield, a member of Fairview Church, Columbus, taught balloon sculpting — from funny hats to animals. His major work of art was Noah's Ark, complete with animals and a rainbow.

Burchfield became involved in balloon art after he bought a bag of balloons, a



HERE'S HOW — Shaun Selman (left), minister of youth at First Church, Petal, talks with Quinton Williams of Macedonia Church, Petal, during the 2000 Mississippi Christian Performing Arts Festival at First Church, Brandon. Selman taught classes in creative movement. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

pump, and an instruction book for his wife Lisa, who along with Keith is a member of Fairview Church's clown troupe, C4C.

Lisa put the kit in the closet but Keith got it out and starting making "bad" giraffes.

"The bug bit me," said Keith. As Makedo the Clown, he sculpts balloons whenever the troupe goes out ministering.

The 2001 Mississippi Christian Performing Arts Festival will take place Mar. 23-24 at Ridgecrest Church, Madison. For more information, contact Ellis at MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3286 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: hgellis@MBCB.org.



IN STYLE — Modeling their balloon sculpture hats at the 2000 Mississippi Christian Performing Arts Festival were (from left) Fern Stone of Emmanuel Church, Greenville; Casey Moore, 13, of East Booneville Church, Booneville; and Chance Johnson, 15, of Briar Hill Church, Florence. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

## Dilday to retire from Truett post

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP) — Former Southwestern Seminary President Russell Dilday is retiring after six years as a professor at Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary.

Dilday, 69, will retire in August, Baylor officials announced March 17.

"All of us at Baylor University are grateful for the service of Russell Dilday, not only to the university and Truett Seminary, but also for his lifetime of extraordinary service to Texas Baptists and, indeed, Baptists throughout the world," Baylor President Robert Sloan said in a statement.

Dilday, a distinguished professor of homiletics and special assistant to the president, also served as Truett's interim dean, when Sloan, the seminary's original dean, became president of the Baptist-affiliated university in Waco, Texas, in 1995.

### ARE YOU ATTRACTIVE?

Recently a research study done by a university revealed that not only are human beings attracted to attractive people, mosquitoes are also. The research study says that mosquitoes do not just zero in on a target randomly, but actually are attracted to appealing subjects. The study showed that mosquitoes could be attracted to a person from hundreds of yards away depending on their clothing, breath, or scent. The researchers even found out that such things as medicine for high blood pressure created an aroma that was appealing to the mosquito.

Now, the study did not say whether they were attracted to good breath or bad breath, or what kind of body scent made folks appealing, but apparently for mosquitoes it makes a difference! I suppose that it is the reason a large group of people can be in the same place and mosquitoes will come to one person and not even bother the others.

As you may or may not be aware, churches and individual Christians attract other people, and some folks — and some churches — do not. What is it that makes churches attractive? Without a doubt, there are many different dimensions to a church being appealing. What attracts one person may not attract another. In fact, what attracts one may be repulsive to another. Still, there are some important ingredients that aid



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

in a church reaching people. Let me suggest that number one is *friendliness*.

Being friendly is not the power that will save someone, but being unfriendly may keep someone from coming to know Jesus. The writer of Proverbs was correct when he said, "If a man is going to have friends, he must show himself friendly." Friendliness is not just the smile you give with a handshake you extend during a one- to two-minute fellowship time in the worship service. No, it is a warm and caring sensitivity that is felt on the parking lot. It is an unseen, but understood, attitude that extends a spirit of "May I help you?" and, "We genuinely are glad that you are here!" At times it seems as though we church folks have a "church friendliness" that doesn't extend beyond the boundaries of when we are supposed to be religiously "on."

Some time ago I was at a church for a meeting — in fact, two meetings. I was to meet with a group in the afternoon and then the entire church that night. The people at the church did not know me and I

did not know them. When I arrived at their facilities I was not sure where to go but I figured I could find my way around a Baptist church, so I set out. I saw a man, not far away who apparently was going into the building and I waved at him, and said "Hi," hoping to catch up with him and find out if he could help me. He turned and went the other way! I went on in his direction but he disappeared into the bowels of the building. I stumbled around, not sure about where I was or where I was supposed to go. I met several people in the halls, not one of whom spoke to me. Several of them even turned and went in the other direction. Finally, I found someone who told me where to go and even helped me get there.

After the first meeting I went to meet with the church body and was I shocked! I could not get inside the building for all the "friendly" people. Remember the guy that I tried to catch up with that afternoon to get directions? There he was, the chairman of the greeters! And, I might add, he was doing a great job! Christians are always "on,"

always "open and available."

If a church is to be attractive, one other essential ingredient must be there: *spirituality*. Because of the lack of space, let me try to give an ultra-simple definition of spirituality as, "Focusing on the things of God." When people come to our churches they deserve, more than anything else, to have the opportunity to hear from God, to meet with God, to talk to God, and to sing praises to God. If folks want entertainment, they can go to a ballgame! If they are looking for social information or self-help tips, they can get on the Internet! When they come to church, it should be an opportunity to have an encounter with God.

On any given Sunday, members as well as visitors arrive at our churches from different vantage points of life. Yet, virtually all of us arrive with at least some experience of disappointment, or discouragement, or difficulty, that makes us feel like Isaiah of old when he came to the temple after the king died and he said, "I saw, also, the Lord." No wonder he had been attracted there.

In Titus 2:10, the Apostle Paul points out that when we reflect the loveliness of the Lord Jesus, we "adorn the doctrine of God our Savior." To adorn is to add beauty to beauty. We must remember that our lives can be a blessing or a barrier to others coming to see the Lord.

How attractive are you?

# Nigeria Baptists bury dead, look to future

KADUNA, Nigeria (BP) — Baptists in Nigeria are sifting through the ashes and counting the cost after the Baptist seminary in Kaduna was attacked during riots in late February.

Eleven people — including two students and a retired maintenance man — were killed when a mob overran the campus Feb. 22. Another student had been killed in town the day before.

The cost of replacing buildings burned during the assault may run as high as \$5.3 million, reported Uche Enyioha, president of the seminary. And that doesn't include the cost of replacing school furnishings, personal belongings, and library books, which had just reached the 10,000 level required for accreditation.

The destruction of buildings and even the loss of life will not stop the growth of God's kingdom in Nigeria, Baptist workers say.

Rioters killed 21 members of one Baptist church and burned 17 Baptist church buildings and 13 pastors' homes, reported Southern Baptist missionary Don Copeland. Another six church buildings only were looted, apparently because they were located too close to Muslim homes to be burned.

Four days of clashes between Muslims and Christians in the northern Nigeria city broke out Feb. 20 as Christians protested Muslim activist appeals to institute Islamic

criminal law in Kaduna state. Hundreds of people were killed. Mosques, churches, and businesses were burned. Hundreds of vehicles were destroyed or damaged.

Nigeria's president, Olusegun Obasanjo, a southern Christian, condemned the violence, which quickly spread to the southeastern town of Aba, where Muslim traders were killed by Christians in revenge for the Kaduna attacks.

Within days, leaders of Muslim northern states agreed not to pursue strict "Sharia" law in order to preserve peace. Newspapers in the country speculated the violence actually was inspired by northern politicians ousted in the elections that brought Obasanjo to power.

Emeritus Nigeria missionary Payton Myers had traveled to Nigeria to help repair a single men's dormitory on the Kaduna seminary campus. He was unable to reach the campus Feb. 21 because of the rioting.

After the violence subsided, Myers bought corn, cassava, and other foodstuffs, and took them to the Kaduna air force base, where both Muslims and Christians had taken refuge from the fighting.

He watched as the people killed at the seminary were buried in a mass grave in a nearby cemetery — where the battle for the seminary had raged two days earlier.

"These people are witnesses that there is

more to life than simply escaping death," Myers said. "I'm very grateful for being able to have a little part to play in helping meet some of the needs of the people at this time."

Southern Baptist missionary physician Dale Gray helped care for the wounded at the air force base, and chaplains there ministered to people's needs as well, Copeland said. Nigerian Baptist churches and their national convention have provided disaster relief assistance to victims of the rioting.

Classes for graduating seniors will resume after Easter at a temporary location, the seminary's board of governors decided, but other students may not resume their studies until August or even January.

The board of governors is discussing whether to rebuild the seminary campus at its present site or relocate, Copeland said.

Despite the physical damage to buildings and the loss of life and personal possessions, the attacks in Kaduna are no setback for churches there, Myers said.

"The church, the kingdom of God, is not in buildings made with human hands, but in the hearts of those who have been touched by God," Myers said. "The burning of buildings will never stop the movement of the church in Nigeria or anywhere else."

"From the ashes will come a strong, more alive church."

## Crutchley named dean at SWBTS

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Trustees at Southwestern Seminary elected a new dean for the seminary's school of theology March 7 during their biannual meeting.

David Crutchley, an associate professor of New Testament

at the Fort Worth, seminary, was named the ninth dean of the school of theology, seven months after he joined the South-



Crutchley

western faculty. He will officially begin as dean June 1.

Crutchley, 45, was born in Rhodesia, now known as Zimbabwe. He came to the U.S. to attend Southwestern, where he felt called to the ministry. He married Carol, the daughter of a missionary to Zimbabwe, while he was in the United States and became a U.S. citizen. After graduating, he taught at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark.

In 1984, he was appointed by the then-Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (now International Mission Board) to South Africa where he taught at Cape Town Baptist Theological College and Seminary.

# Hand-cranked tape player effective Gospel tool

MARALAL, Kenya (BP) — Slowly the crank goes round and round, generating electricity to start the machine. The people sitting around it stare — amazed — when the box "speaks."

At first, they laugh nervously. Then a silence falls on the group as they listen to the box tell of a God they do not know.

Don Dolifka, an International Mission Board missionary in Kenya, offers the hand-cranked tape recorder to a man sitting in the circle. He drops his club and spear to continue cranking. Soon, the group of 10 sits motionless, soaking in every word.

"They'll sit like that, listening to the tapes, until midnight," says Dolifka. "Tomorrow, they'll do the same thing — only next time even more will show up to hear the box that speaks Samburu."

Dolifka and his wife, Mary Alice, say this church-planting method has resulted in more than 150 "contact points" among the Samburu (Sahm-BOO-roo) people of northern Kenya. A year ago there were only 10 contact points — places, usually under a tree, where people gather to hear a lesson from the Bible.

The Samburu have not always been this responsive to the gospel. Things have come a long way since the Dolifkas began work with these nomadic cousins of the Maasai people in 1990.

The average Samburu prays to a god every morning but does not have a concept of a personal relationship with God the Father or knowledge of Jesus Christ as Savior. The Samburu believe in an omnipotent and omnipresent god called NkAi.

"The danger we found is their beliefs are so close [to Christianity] that sometimes they don't see the difference," Dolifka observes. "We had to find a way to let them see and experience the difference Jesus Christ makes."

Doors began to open with a project aimed at the most important thing in a Samburu's life — cows. In Samburu culture, the number of cattle a man owns determines his wealth and status in the community.

The animal care project took shape after Dolifka noticed that 80% of sicknesses could be treated by someone other than a veterinarian. Three Samburu church leaders learned how to treat the ailments.

The main emphasis of the animal care project is God's healing power. Workers carefully pray for each animal treated and thank God when one is healed. "The prayer has made a big difference," reports George Lenguro, one of the church leaders trained to treat the animals. "People know it is not our medicine but God's power. They saw that God was accepting our prayers, and they began wanting us to treat their animals."

While the animal care project opened doors for sharing the gospel, the Dolifkas knew more had to be done.

For the Samburu to be reached, they needed the gospel in their own language. Neither of the Dolifkas, however, spoke Samburu.

The solution came three months later when Lenguro approached the missionaries and said God wanted him to translate the Bible. Lenguro, an elder in the tribe, began trans-

lating the Gospel of Luke in his mud-packed home. It was about this time the Dolifkas began "storying" the Bible by using hand-cranked tape players. The cassettes explain the Bible chronologically.

"The people would rather listen to the tapes than me," Dolifka says. "That's because this box speaks their language."

The Samburu play these Bible lessons before most community meetings. Young men listen to them while watching the herds of cattle. Women and children listen at the water source. Elders listen while sitting in the afternoon shade.

"The people see this is pure Samburu. It is God's Word, and he is speaking to us in our language," Lenguro says. "Because God is speaking to us in Samburu, the people feel this must be an important message, and they must listen and learn."

"This rapid growth is not something we did," Mary Alice Dolifka says. "It is the direct result of God working in the lives of the Samburu."

"They have taken the gospel message seriously and spread it everywhere they go. They feel that everyone needs this message, and it is their duty to share it."



GOD SPEAKS SAMBURU — Residents of a Samburu village check out the contents of a "church start kit" they just received from Baptist workers who are planting churches among Kenya's people group. The kit includes a hand-cranked tape player, tapes of sermons in the Samburu language, and flip charts illustrating Bible stories. Villagers will sit for hours, listening to the sermon tapes, missionaries say. (BP photo by Grace Robinette)

# CELEBRATE COOPER

## CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$25,000 & BELOW

CHURCH/ASSOCIATION	CP GIFTS
New Hope/Golden Triangle	\$ 4,881
New Providence/Copiah	\$ 4,574
Berwick/Mississippi	\$ 4,539
Harmony/Pearl River	\$ 4,186
Hopewell/Choctaw	\$ 3,915
Mt. Pisgah/Choctaw	\$ 3,481
Pilgrims Rest/Webster	\$ 3,016
Hillcrest Road/Pearl River	\$ 2,814
Mt. Pleasant/Holmes	\$ 2,770
Beulah/Holmes	\$ 2,667

## CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$25,000 - \$39,999

CHURCH/ASSOCIATION	CP GIFTS
New Hope/Webster	\$ 9,131
Elon/Noxubee	\$ 7,613
Hamburg/Franklin	\$ 5,909
Linn/Mid-Delta	\$ 5,147
Enon/Winston	\$ 5,001
Pine Lake/Jackson	\$ 4,855
Thomastown/Leake	\$ 4,236
New Montpelier/Golden Triangle	\$ 4,169
Northside/Warren	\$ 4,105
Cornersville/Union County	\$ 4,080

## CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$40,000 - \$54,999

CHURCH/ASSOCIATION	CP GIFTS
Sabougla/Calhoun	\$ 9,659
Old Hebron/Covington-Jeff Davis	\$ 7,936
Oldtown/Calhoun	\$ 7,357
Crosby/Mississippi	\$ 7,302
Hebron/Mississippi	\$ 7,283
Unity/Greene	\$ 7,241
Center Ridge/Kemper	\$ 7,000
Enon/North Central	\$ 6,935
Clear Branch/Lincoln	\$ 6,514
Scotland/Montgomery	\$ 6,303

## CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$55,000 - \$74,999

CHURCH/ASSOCIATION	CP GIFTS
Calvary/Panola	\$26,567
Cliff Temple/Adams	\$19,354
Black Jack/Yazoo	\$12,954
Liberty/Lauderdale	\$12,953
Riverside/Wayne	\$11,962
Concord/Yazoo	\$11,538
Hebron/North Central	\$11,487
Ethel/Attala	\$11,468
FBC, State Line/Wayne	\$11,344
Interstate/Mid-Delta	\$10,892

## CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$75,000 - \$99,999


CHURCH/ASSOCIATION	CP GIFTS
FBC, Anguilla/Sharkey-Issaquena	\$19,261
Cherry Creek/Pontotoc	\$18,932
Liberty/Pontotoc	\$16,377
Calvary/Winston	\$16,276
Spring Creek/Neshoba	\$15,836
FBC, Beaumont/Perry	\$14,502
Morgan Chapel/Golden Triangle	\$14,292
East Fork/Mississippi	\$14,036
Camp Creek/Lee	\$13,510
Calvary/Newton	\$13,021

Church Offering Categories based on undesignated gifts reported on the Annual Church Profile (Oct. 97- Sept. 98)

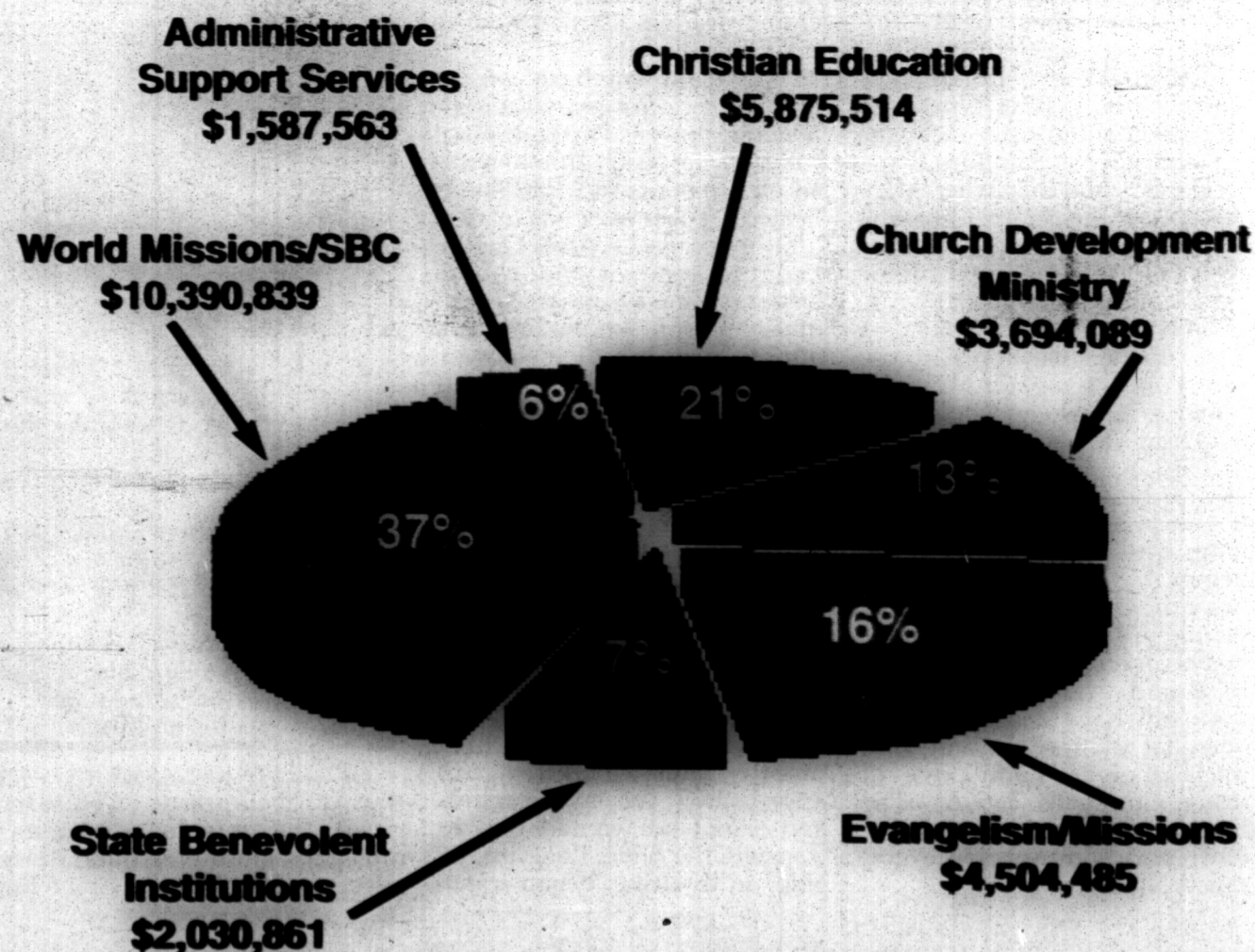
### PAID IN THE HARVEST

As we stand on the edge of the new millennium, we remind ourselves of the power of the Cooperative Program. The reliable income stream produced by our church giving has enabled us to assume global leadership in missions. We anticipate with joy what we are to accomplish in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

For more information on cooperative ministries contact David Michel, associate executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: 292-3731.



## Mississippi Baptist 2000 Cooperative Program Budget Grand Total: \$28,083,349



# COOPERATIVE PROGRAM DAY

## CP support firm at Prentiss Church

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

At Prentiss Church in Covington-Jefferson Davis Association, mission support is no small matter. As a matter of fact, support for missions through the Cooperative Program (CP) is such a significant percentage of the church's yearly budget that it means other sacrifices have to be made.

According to Randy Rich, pastor at Prentiss Church, church members give 24 % of undesignated receipts to CP, the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) unified mission support program.

This means 24 cents of every dollar given to the general fund at Prentiss Church is taken off the top and sent first as CP gifts to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson, where a portion is kept to fund mission work in Mississippi, and then on to Nashville, where the executive committee of the SBC divides the money between the International and North American Mission Boards, the six SBC seminaries, and several other denominational entities.

In terms of mission support, however, there's more. In addition to the 24% in CP gifts, Prentiss Church gives four percent to their association and another one percent for the association's building program. They also support the Pearl River Community College Baptist Student Union, a local jail ministry, and a local radio ministry.

After all these mission efforts are supported, then the church budgets funds for staff, programs, utilities, and building upkeep, Rich said.

As a result of those priorities, there is only one full-time staff member and two ministry assistants

even though Prentiss Church runs nearly 300 in Sunday School and worship.

All other ministry positions are staffed by part-time workers, including minister of music, youth minister, and outreach/ senior adult minister.

"This level of support costs you something, but if it is what you're committed to doing, then you are willing to make the sacrifice and make up the difference in other ways."

"I think we do better with our part-time staff than many churches do with full-time staff," Rich said.

For the 1998-99 church year, Prentiss Church members gave

\$85,667 to CP. Not only did that figure represent 24% of their regular giving it also represented an increase of \$17,027 over 1997-98.

Rich said the CP percentage has remained steady at 24% for many years — but the dollar increase is a reflection of sacrificial giving on the part of the congregation.

"This church has a heart for missions," Rich said, "and our giving is just one demonstration of this."

In addition to strong mission giving, Prentiss is also heavily involved in mission "doing."

Each year, with the help of the B. C. Griffith Endowment, the church sends the pastor and others on mission trips around the world.

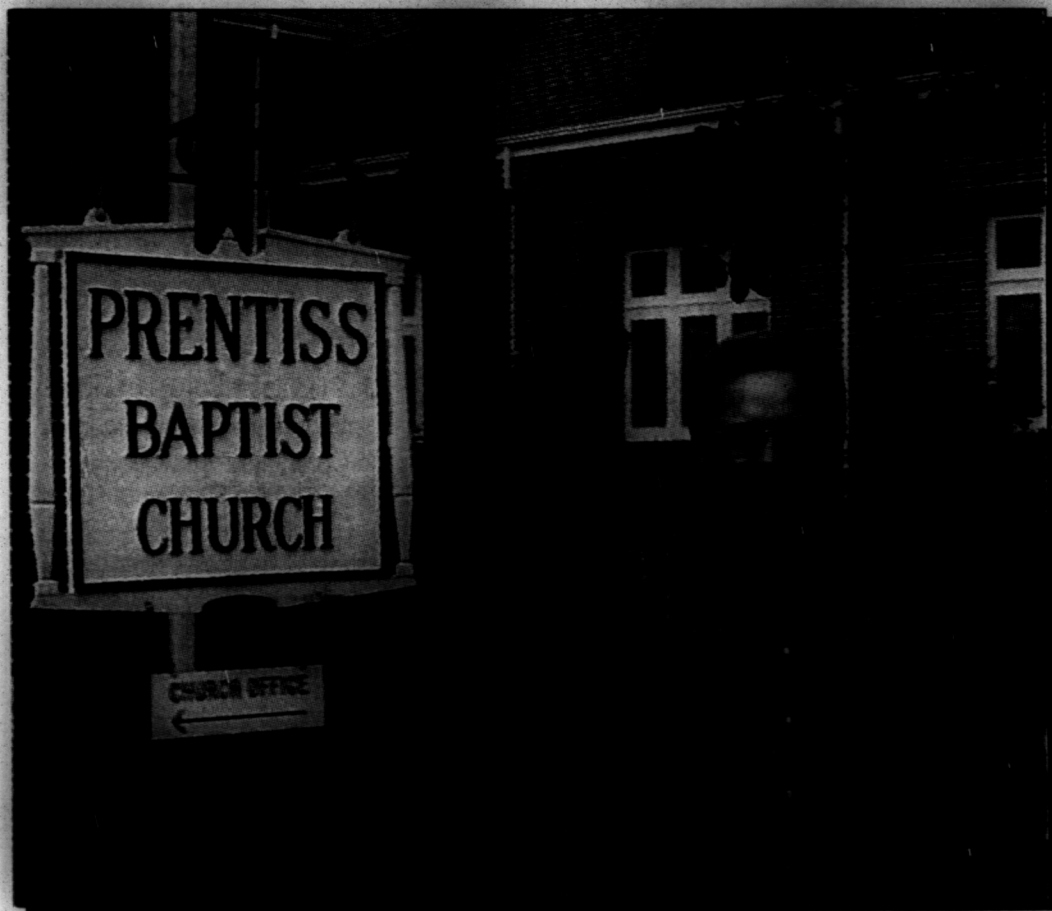
"Last March I was able to teach a preaching course at the Baptist seminary in Odessa (Ukraine)," Rich said. Mississippi Baptists are currently conducting a partnership with Ukraine Baptists.

He also recently returned from a Jump Start trip to New Redeemer Church, an African-American church outside of Washington D. C. Jump Start is a program of the partnership between Mississippi Baptists and Maryland/Delaware Baptists designed to help existing churches.

Rich and others have also been to Venezuela and Honduras on mission trips. Mississippi Baptists are involved in a special partnership with Honduran Baptists to promote long-term recovery from the devastation of Hurricane Mitch.

The level of CP support is discussed every year at budget time, he indicated, but Rich doesn't expect it to be reduced anytime soon. "It would be a war," he said. "The church is committed to giving."

Rich also thinks that this is one of the reasons why they regularly exceed their budget goals. "I think the church's commitment to giving motivates the people to give to the church."



Randy Rich

### CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$100,000 - \$149,999

CHURCH/ASSOCIATION	CP GIFTS
Shiloh/Lawrence	\$37,233
Ecru/Pontotoc	\$36,467
Skene/Mid-Delta	\$29,712
Harmontown/Lafayette	\$28,851
Cato/Rankin	\$27,281
Sylvarena/Smith	\$24,239
Salem/Covington-Jeff Davis	\$22,782
Antioch-Brandon/Rankin	\$22,104
Chunky/Newton	\$21,779
FBC, Bude/Franklin	\$21,586

### CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$150,000 - \$249,999

CHURCH/ASSOCIATION	CP GIFTS
New Hebron/Lawrence	\$59,609
FBC, Magnolia/Pike	\$53,442
Carrollton/Carroll	\$52,511
Hickory/Newton	\$51,672
Pelahatchie/Rankin	\$50,972
Bunker Hill/Marion	\$49,206
Crowder/North Delta	\$43,088
Terry's Creek /Pike	\$42,023
West Ripley/Benton-Tippah	\$38,345
Adaton/GoldenTriangle	\$37,252

### CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$250,000 - \$499,999

CHURCH/ASSOCIATION	CP GIFTS
FBC, Purvis/Lamar	\$104,919
FBC, Waynesboro/Wayne	\$104,528
Midway/Lauderdale	\$92,567
Prentiss/Covington-Jeff Davis	\$85,667
FBC, Collinsville/Lauderdale	\$84,278
FBC, Baldwin/Lee	\$80,163
Tate/Alcorn	\$77,308
FBC, Eupora/Webster	\$68,551
Monticello/Lawrence	\$68,218
FBC, Ellisville/Jones	\$66,829

### CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$500,000 - \$999,999

CHURCH/ASSOCIATION	CP GIFTS
West Heights/Pontotoc	\$156,090
FBC, Batesville/Panola	\$155,156
FBC, Winona/Montgomery	\$154,734
FBC, Columbia/Marion	\$148,378
FBC, Louisville/Winston	\$141,719
FBC, Kosciusko/Attala	\$133,540
FBC, Greenville/Washington	\$133,221
FBC, Houston/Chickasaw	\$131,288
FBC, Grenada/North Central	\$130,191
Emmanuel/North Central	\$123,262

### CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$1,000,000 & above

CHURCH/ASSOCIATION	CP GIFTS
FBC, Jackson/Metro	\$544,201
FBC, Brandon/Rankin	\$530,380
Colonial Heights/Metro	\$341,109
Calvary/Lee	\$329,778
Broadmoor/Metro	\$278,104
Harrisburg/Lee	\$264,657
FBC, Clinton/Metro	\$262,621
Morrison Heights/Metro	\$244,612
FBC, Columbus/Golden Triangle	\$241,277
FBC, Hattiesburg/Lebanon	\$209,918

Church Offering Categories based on undesignated gifts reported on the Annual Church Profile (Oct. 97- Sept. 98)

## Homecomings

**Calhoun, Hot Coffee:** April 30; service, 11 a.m. followed by lunch in fellowship hall, afternoon service; Ben Carlisle, former pastor, guest speaker.

**Bond, Philadelphia:** April 30; service, 11 a.m. with a message by Claude Huguley, former pastor; lunch will be served following services.

**Puckett (Rankin):** April 30; Puckett Cemetery Association, (note: date change); 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; Perry Sanderford, guest speaker; Grant McElveen, pastor.

**First Church, Ridgeland,** will host Paid in Full in concert on May 7 at 10 a.m. The concert will be held on high attendance day in Sunday School. Grant Arinder is pastor.

**Twin Lakes Church, Jackson,** celebrated ground breaking for its new sanctuary at Lake Cavalier Road on April 2. Pictured (from left) are Cliff Fortenberry, minister of music; Curtis James; Dave Moore; Hugh Smith, pastor; Greg Spencer, minister of children and youth; building committee members Helen Entrekin, Woody Holt, Kaye Pryor; Carolyn deVeer; Roy Stewart; builder Perry Richards; and Renee Rice of the Merchants and Farmers Bank.

**Shady Grove Church, Batesville,** held a note burning for its debt free parsonage. The parsonage was completed June 1999, with a debt of \$36,000. The total cost was \$78,000. Also, the church celebrated one-year anniversary of Terry Tribble, pastor, and his family. Pictured (from right to left) Tribble, Brad Pierce, Tim Douglas, Clemmie Bay, Barbara Perkins, Ray Manning, Rusty Perkins, and Wayne Putman.

**Clarke College alumni** homecoming will be held Saturday, April 15, at Calvary Church, Newton. The day begins with registration, fellowship, and refreshments in the Family Life Building at 8:30 a.m.,



Note burning at Shady Grove Church, Batesville

and includes election of officers, recognitions, memorial moments, singspiration (led by Harold Sinclair), and message by Hugh Poole. The day concludes with lunch (\$7 per person) in fellowship hall. James E. Griffith is alumni association president.

**Palestine Church, Raymond,** will host a seminar on the subject of "creation vs. evolution" conducted

by Eric Hovind of Creation Science Evangelism (CSE), Pensacola, Fla. The seminar will be held on April 16 through April 19 at the McKenzie Arena, Hinds Community College, Raymond. Hovind will conduct the regular Sunday morning worship service, which will be held at the Wright & Ferguson Funeral Home location in Raymond. He and his wife, who is from the Ukraine, will be sharing information on a recent mission trip to that country. The seminar will begin Sunday evening at 7 p.m. For additional information, call Jerry File, pastor, at (601) 885-2002 or visit the CSE web site at [www.drdino.com](http://www.drdino.com).



Ground breaking at Twin Lakes Church, Jackson

## REVIVAL DATES

**Bethel, Drew:** April 16-19; 7 p.m.; Jerry D. Bingham, Greenville, evangelist; Larry Choucolli, pastor.

**Rawls Springs, Hattiesburg:** April 16-19; Sunday, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ron Gaynor, Atlanta, Ga., evangelist; John Cockrell, pastor; Wade Murphy, minister of music.

**Griffin Street, Moss Point:** April 16-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Dan Jones, former pastor, evangelist; Herman Cowart, music; Tommy Kendrick, pastor.

**Good Hope, Purvis:** April 23-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; James E. Messer Sr., evangelist; Jerry N. Watts, music; John E. Watts, pastor.

**Darlove, Hollandale:** April 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Campers on Mission will conduct services; Ron Roberts, pastor.

**Tate, Corinth:** April 23-27; Sunday, sunrise service at 8 a.m. and breakfast served, revival services begin at 10:45 a.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 11:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jackie Kay, Looking Up Ministries, evangelist.

**Monticello, Monticello:** April 30-May 4; services, 7 p.m. each night except 6:30 p.m. on Wed.; Frank Pollard, Jackson, evangelist; Tim Daniels, Madison, music; Mon.-Thurs., noon services with Jon Daniels, pastor of Monticello Church, preaching.

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**ASSOCIATE PASTOR:** Individual must possess desire/ability for assisting the church in creating new ministry models and a willingness to have responsibilities directed by developing as well as existing needs. Send resume to Associate Pastor Search Committee, Southwest Baptist Church, 6401 Scanlan, St. Louis, MO 63139.

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# BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

**Cloyd Ezell**, vice president for academic affairs at William Carey College, announces the following promotions on the Hattiesburg campus. **Daniel Caldwell**, Petal, associate professor of religion; **Cheryl Dale**, Hattiesburg, associate professor of business; **Miroslav Loncar**, professor of music; **Connie Roberts**, associate professor of music; and **Laurie Glaze**, assistant professor of business. The Board of Trustees voted to confer tenure to **Barbara Ferguson** of Metairie, and **Mary Nesbitt**. Ferguson and Nesbitt serve as assistant professors of nursing.

**Mississippi College School of Nursing** is presenting its biannual Health Fair. The Health Fair will be held from noon-6 p.m. on April 12 at First Church in Clinton. For more information, call the School of Nursing at (601) 925-3278.

**William Carey College (WCC)** will host the 16th Annual Conference on the Elderly Mississippian with a Mental Handicap on April 28, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., in the Kresge Room of the Thomas Business Building on the Hattiesburg campus. **Mary Harper**, formerly with the National Institute on Mental Health, will deliver the keynote address. WCC, the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Boswell Regional Center, and the Mississippi Chapter of the

American Association on Mental Retardation sponsor the seminar. A pre-conference workshop entitled "Doing Person-Centered Planning with Aging Individuals with Diagnosed Dementia" will be Thursday, April 27, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Speakers will be **Ed Butler** with the Mississippi Department of Health and **Linda McDowell** of the University of Southern Mississippi. For additional information or registration materials, contact **Paul Cotton** at (601) 582-6416, or write William Carey College, Box 14, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401.

**Mississippi College** department of music will present its combined choirs in a performance of "Requiem" on April 17 at Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson. The concert, conducted by **James M. Meaders**, will begin at 7:30 p.m. Soloists for the performance are **Richard Joiner** and **Viola Dacus**. The organist will be **Jeff McLelland**. For more information, call the office of public relations at (601) 925-3239.



**Charla Jeter** (seated, left) of Pascagoula, a 1998 graduate of William Carey College with a bachelor of arts degree in religion, has been accepted at Truett Seminary, Baylor University in Waco, Texas, where she received a full tuition fellowship. Pictured (standing, from left) are **Dorman Laird**, professor of religion; **Bennie Crockett**, professor of philosophy and religion; **Daniel Caldwell**, associate professor of religion and dean of the Cooper School of Music; (seated, right) **Daniel Browning**, professor of religion. Jeter is assistant Baptist Student Union director.

## Staff changes

**First Church, Pearl**, has called **Lori Schuler** as minister to students effective March 27. She will also be leading the student choir. Schuler is a graduate of Mississippi College and is pursuing her seminary degree from New Orleans Seminary.

**Lone Pine Church, Canton**, has called **Tom F. Rayburn** as pastor and **Mary Rayburn** as church pianist.

**Calvary Church, Canton**, has called **Gowan Ellis** as interim pastor. Ellis retired from the First Church, Terry, in Dec. 1997.

## EASTER SERVICES

**Leaf River Church, Smith County**, will have Resurrection Sunday services on April 23, beginning at 7 a.m. Sunday School will be held at 10 a.m. and Cantata at 11 a.m.

Sonrise services will be held at New Elbethel Church, Lafayette Association, at 6:30 a.m., followed by breakfast. The youth will present their Easter program, Three Little Trees, on

April 30 at 10:45 a.m. The Austins, gospel trio from Carey Springs, will be in concert on April 30 at 6 p.m. **Ron Jenkins** is pastor of New Elbethel Church.

**Leesburg Church, Morton**, will present The Power of His Touch experience the resurrection, April 14-16 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call the church at (601) 854-5306.

**Paid in Full**, an Easter drama, will be presented at First Church, Richland, Sunday-Tuesday, April 16-18, at 7 p.m. For more information, call the church at (601) 939-1715.

children.com



### Faculty for the Festival:

- \* Jan Marler; Preschool Specialist with LifeWay
- \* Rhonda Reeves; Mission Friends editor, WMU
- \* Cindy Goodwin; Florida Baptist WMU
- \* Barbara Brown; Colonial Heights Baptist Church
- \* Virginia Hess; FBC, Dothan, Alabama

## Preschool/Children's Leadership Festival

May 5-6, 2000  
Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Jackson

- \* Donna Bowman; New Orleans Seminary
- \* Virginia Green, MD; Blake Clinic for Children
- \* Suzette Sanderfer, Children's Specialist with LifeWay
- \* Diane Wentworth; Colonial Heights Baptist Church
- \* Janet Williams; Preschool Specialist, Arkansas Baptist Convention

Weekday and day care teachers can receive up to 7 hours of staff development credit for this event.

### Registration Form

Children.com: High Tech - High Touch

\$10.00 registration fee is due by April 24, 2000. Make checks payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and mail to: Discipleship and Family Ministry, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Group Leader's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_

Church Address \_\_\_\_\_

Church Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Group Leader's Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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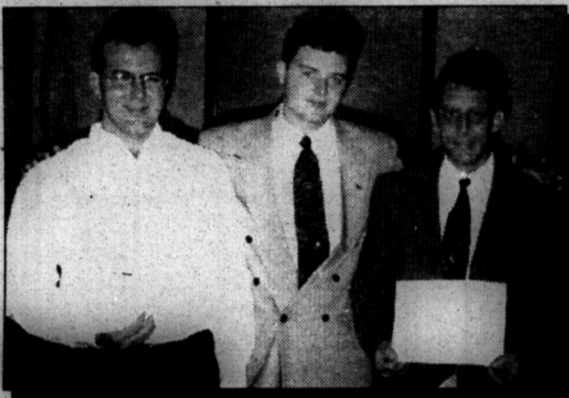
6380 Ridgewood Court Drive, Suite A Jackson, MS 39211

## NAMES IN THE NEWS



Thrasher, Cook, and Foster

James B. Cook Jr. was ordained to the ministry on Feb. 20 at First Church of Benndale, by Franklin Creek Church of Moss Point. Pictured (from left) are Dale Thrasher, Winnfield, La.; Cook; and Greg Foster, Franklin Creek Church. Cook has been pastor of First Church of Benndale since Jan. 30.



Samuels, Roberson, and Harole

Clear Creek Church, Taylorsville, recently held deacon ordination service for James Terry Jones and Joe Peale Blakeney. Pictured (from left) are Jones, Blakeney, and James Fortenberry, pastor.

Amity Church, Chickasaw Association, recently held a deacon ordination service. Pictured (from left) are Keith Sammuels; Gary Roberson, pastor; and David Harold.

Wayne Hall and Paul Bourg have been licensed to the ministry by Silver Creek Church, McComb. Patrick G. Bourg, pastor.



Jones, Blakeney, and Fortenberry

Trinity Church, Petal, held an ordination of deacons for Byron Sigrest and David Melton on Feb. 27. Pictured (from left) are Sigrest; Steven Johnson, pastor; and Melton.



Sigrest, Johnson, and Melton

## Florida church seizing special ministry opportunity

CLERMONT, Fla. (BP) — The central Florida town of Clermont is emerging as an international destination for triathletes, and First Church there is already planning to minister internationally without leaving home.

A triathlon is a race that includes three disciplines: swimming, cycling, and running. Although Americans may be familiar with the Ironman Triathlon, the more typical race is the sprint triathlon. The

sprint is a one-mile swim, followed by a 10,000-meter run, then a 40-mile bicycle race. The sport is now included in the Olympic games.

Already the site of more than seven triathlons yearly, Clermont soon will be the home of the USA Triathlon National Training Center. The center is moving from the Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center after the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

The national championship and the world championship qualifying triathlons have been held in Clermont and almost every race draws more than 1,000 competitors.

Most races are held on Sunday mornings, with the awards presented after the event. While waiting on the official results, athletes usually

recover from the grueling events on the shore of Lake Minneola. First Church has formed a team that plans to minister during the lull between the race and awards ceremony.

"We want to have live music, refreshments, and testimonies in a relaxed, casual atmosphere," said pastor Danny Davis. "We want it to be a celebration."



READY, SET, GO — Triathletes wait for the start of the swim race during this year's U.S. National Championship, held in Clermont, Fla. First Baptist Church, Clermont, plans a ministry to athletes.

### MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Send resume to: Music Search Committee, c/o Eastwood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 466, Indianola, MS 38751. Call 601-887-4404.

**PIANIST AND/OR ORGANIST NEEDED** for growing church in Reservoir area. Call 601-924-0569 or 829-1004 for more information.

**PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED** for Corinth Baptist Church, 207 Church Road, Magee, MS 39111. Telephone: 601-849-2795. Dean Stewart is pastor and average attendance is 180.

**OPENING FOR EXPERIENCED PIANIST.** Southside Baptist Church, Jackson. Please contact Bill at 601-974-2300 (day) or 601-372-4773 (night).

### New & Used Model Bus Clearance

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1 1989 Blue Bird	40 passenger	Cummins Diesel	\$25,000.00	Make an offer!
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## FLOWOOD BAPTIST

### 4th Annual Golf Tournament

Willow Creek

Saturday, April 29th, 2000

Registration Deadline • 7:30 am

Saturday, April 29th, 2000

Starts at 8:00 am

\$50 per person • \$200 per team

### PRIZES AND TROPHIES

Proceeds will go towards the Annual Mission Construction Trip for the Flowood Baptist Church Brotherhood Association.

Call Eddie Cook at 992-3711 or  
Flowood Baptist Church at 992-6464  
for more information

# LIFE AND WORK

## What about now?

Revelation 22:7-17, 20-21

By Michael Jones

What difference should the fact that one day Jesus will return make in the way we live our life now? Some say and practice that our beliefs have nothing to do with our actions. They say we can believe one thing but that does not necessarily mean we have to act a certain way.

However, as believers we know that our beliefs do determine our actions — or they should. Some people say they believe in God, his promises, and his return, but they live no differently than unbelievers. True believers, on the other hand, both live out of their beliefs, and they live out their beliefs. Our

faith declares that Jesus Christ is coming back soon. How should that affect our actions now?

**Obey God's Word (vv. 7-9).** The word "keeps" in verse seven is the same word that is translated "obey" in Matt. 28:20. Believing in Christ's return means we will obey his word for us. In this passage, Jesus pronounces a blessing on all those who will "keep" or "obey" his Word.

Wiersebee states that to "keep the sayings of this book" means we are to guard God's Word. We are to watch over God's Word and to preserve it. That



Jones

means we are not to add anything to them, or take anything away. We are simply to obey them. This applies not only to Revelation, but to the entire Bible.

**Live differently from the world (vv. 10-15).** When Christ returns our destiny will already be determined. Only those who have accepted him will receive the rewards we have read about. Those who have rebelled against him will be excluded from heaven's gates.

Verse eleven contrasts the difference in the way a believer should live as opposed to an unbeliever. Unbelievers continue to do wrong — they are "vile." In contrast, believers continue to do right and through work of Christ are made holy.

The fact that we as believers know Christ and believe his return is soon should motivate

us to be ready at all times. I am reminded of 2 Cor. 5:17 which says: "If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone and the new has come." This passage is saying that as Christians we are to live a different life from the rest of the world in at least two ways. First, Christ now lives in us, and second, he has given us a new life to live.

**Invite others to come to Jesus (vv. 16-17).** There is a world full of people who may not know that Jesus is coming soon. They are thirsty and are seeking something to quench their thirst. As believers, the Holy Spirit wants to offer the invitation for those people to come and drink freely of the living water of life, through us.

Because we know Christ is coming again, we should be motivated to invite others to come and be with us and to receive the free gift God offers. As Paul says in Romans 6:23,

that free gift is eternal life.

**Pray for Jesus' coming (vv. 20-21).** Our prayer should be the same as John's: "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus." When Christians pray for his return it does not quicken the day of his coming, but it does awaken in us our obligation under God to prepare for that day. It also is an encouragement, equipping us to deal with life as it is, because we know all that is wrong in the world will be made right when Jesus returns.

Do your beliefs determine your actions? As true believers, knowing Jesus is returning should affect our lives now. It should motivate us to obey God's Word, to live a different life from the world, to invite others to come to know Jesus, and to pray for his coming. Are you living out your beliefs?

Jones is associate pastor/youth minister at Monticello Church, Monticello.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

## Committing to faithful service

Joshua 24:14-25

By Keith Smyser

Someone once said, "Most people wish to serve God — but only in an advisory capacity." (100 Stories for Special Occasion Homilies) We are studying the most well-known passage in Joshua, where Joshua made a declaration of his faith. This scripture passage has encouraged believers for thousands of years! Is it possible to expect people today to make the same commitment?

**Accept the challenge (vv. 14-18).** In chapter 23, Joshua had gathered all the leaders to speak to them, so they might hear his final message. Shechem was an appropriate place, for this was

where God appeared to Abraham (Gen. 12:6-7) and where Jacob recommitted himself to God (Gen. 35:1-4). It was also a central location for all the tribes.

Joshua reviewed all that God had done for the people of Israel (vv. 1-13). Why is it important for us to remember the activity of God in our lives? The act of looking back reminds us to give God the credit for all that you have and all that you are in life! It is also important to note that Joshua's words in verses 8-10 remind us God is not some local deity but Lord of the whole earth!

As a good leader, Joshua



Smyser

knew the people could not easily give exclusive devotion to God. False gods in Egypt and those in the Promise Land vied for the loyalty of Israel.

Joshua challenged the people in three areas: "(1) He called on them to fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and truth. It had to be a conscious decision.

(2) Joshua called for exclusive devotion to God. God alone was to be worshiped. Divided loyalty is no loyalty at all. (3) Joshua also called on them to choose. He ended by giving a personal example of encouragement when he said 'as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord'" (Joshua: Courage for the Future).

**Heed the warning (vv. 19-25a).** Joshua taught the people about the nature of God. God is holy and God will not tolerate rivals. The Lord cannot be one of several gods in our lives. What

"rivals" are present in your life?

Our passage (v. 19) speaks of God as a jealous God, but perhaps a better word would be zealous. Our God demands exclusive devotion and is zealous for worship that belongs to him alone. A warning is issued by Joshua (v. 20). He wanted the people to understand the consequences if they made a commitment to God and failed to live up to their commitment. The people responded twice that they would keep their commitment to God!

Joshua speaks to believers today. We can learn many great truths from Joshua 24. First, we must not straddle the fence in our commitment to God. Second, as followers of Christ we should exert influence on others rather than allowing them to influence us. Third, we should not take lightly our decision to follow Christ.

Fourth, we should be public followers of Christ. One of my

favorite cartoons has three men in suits talking. One man says "yes I am a Christian but fortunately I have been able to keep it a secret from my boss." Fifth, we should be willing to follow through on our commitment by giving our best to the Lord.

Joshua used a stone (v. 27) as a reminder for the people to serve God alone. Stones played an important role in Israel's march through Canaan. Stones were used in Joshua 4:1-9 to remind them of God's miracle. A heap of stones pointed out Achan's sin in Joshua 7:25-26. The stone altar on the eastern bank of the Jordan was a witness to unity in Joshua 22:10.

Today we do not use stones to remind us of important events in our lives spiritually. What kind of reminders do Christians use to enable them to remember significant spiritual events?

Smyser is associate pastor of First Church, Starkville.

# FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

## Different gifts

1 Corinthians 12:1-30

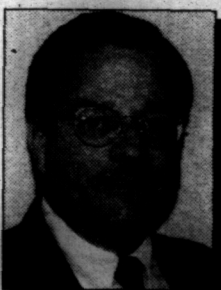
By Neel Grantham

The world we live in often measures the worth of someone based on outward appearances. Clothes, cars, and houses are looked on as signs of success and wealth. Along with these, some say that position and status reveal a person's importance. Unfortunately, this mindset is not limited to worldly folks. Believers often judge others by education, wealth, and other outward signs. James warns against this in the second chapter of his epistle.

The Corinthian church fell into this same trap concerning spiritual gifts. Chapters 12-14 deal with the issue. Again, Paul seems to be answering a ques-

tion from the church as suggested by the phrase in verse 1, "Now concerning spiritual gifts ..." If you look back at 1:7, you get the impression that this body was not lacking in any spiritual gifts. The problem was that some had placed greater value on certain gifts. This created relationship problems in the body. Thus, Paul wrote the "love" chapter (13) to teach that love for one another was more important than the gifts themselves.

**Diverse gifts (vv. 4-11).** Paul gives us a list of some of the gifts in these verses. I don't think this is intended to be an all-inclusive list. We see other gifts mentioned in Romans



Grantham

12:4-8, Ephesians 4:11, and 1 Peter 4:10-11. However, this letter to the Corinthians has the largest list of gifts.

The purpose of the different gifts and the manifestation of the Spirit is, "to profit withal." In other words, the gifts are for the common good of the whole body.

There is no room for boasting because, according to verse 11, the Spirit divides separately as he so desires.

**Different functions (vv. 12-20).** Here Paul uses the analogy of the human body to show the importance of all the members of Christ's body, the church. Just because some believers are gifted with more visible gifts, are they more important than others? Of course not. Neither are those gifted with less visible gifts less important. Comparing the human body and the church

shows that all the gifts and all the members are important. Though we are many members, we are one body.

Remember also that the Spirit is the one responsible for the gifts. Look around in your church and I'm sure you will see the differences of the members' gifts. If a body is lacking in an area of the gifts, they should pray for God to provide. Chances are that God has already provided. This is one reason we should be careful not to let members fall through the cracks. If they are not active, the church is not functioning to the fullest. It takes everyone doing his or her part as God has gifted them for the body to operate to the max.

Unfortunately, many church members don't know their giftedness. They have not discovered how God has empowered them in the area of spiritual gifts. In our churches we may need to do a better job helping

members identify their gifts. If we can get the right persons with the right gifts doing the right jobs, the church would then function properly.

**Distinct relationships (v. 26).** The relationship of the members is important. It reveals how deep, or shallow, our love for one another really is. When the relationship in the body is right, fellow church members are not taken for granted or overlooked. When it is not, often times some are shown more appreciation, or given more affirmation, than others.

As we develop the right relationship within the church we will see it grow to maturity as members love one another, use their gifts, and serve God together. Then, "whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it."

Grantham is pastor of Pineview Church, Clinton.

## Texas WMU leader plans retirement

CEDAR HILL, Texas (ABP) — Longtime Texas missions leader Joy Fenner has announced that she will retire early next year.

Fenner, 65, has been executive director treasurer of Woman's Missionary Union of Texas since 1980. Before that, she worked seven years as a staff member in the statewide missions organization.

Fenner said in a memo to the state WMU executive board that she plans to retire Feb. 28, 2001. Announcing her plans now, she said, would allow a personnel committee "ample time to review the profile and position description, to receive recommendations and evaluate them, and to prayerfully make the selection of a person to be nominated to the executive board."

Earlier in her career, Fenner and her husband, Charlie, were Southern Baptist missionaries in Japan 14 years.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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MPATEO, YAP OLJX NTFP,  
XLBYA YAP ETWO RTO,  
YALY B HBEE XPSO L  
QLFBSP BS YAP ELSO, STY  
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YAP HTWOX TQ YAP  
ETWO.

LFTX PBRAY: PEPGPS

Clue: O = D

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Sixteen: Two.

# Conference sets focus on children's worship

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Today's children, many of whom have their childhood taken from them early in life, should have their spiritual childhood returned to them, a Southern Baptist pastor told children's worship leaders meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

The Children's Worship Conference, March 20-22, was held at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Frank Lewis, pastor of First Church, Nashville, said Southern Baptists have become proficient in evangelism but deficient in worship.

"Worship can be evangelism," he said, "but it has other elements, too. If we are going to give our children a spiritual childhood, we have to help them to understand the value of God's Word and to have the ability to listen to it." Adults need to help children "realize God still speaks and that what he says is precious," Lewis said.

Children's worship leaders need to lead parents "to reclaim the biblical responsibility of blessing their children," he continued. When his first child was still very



CHILDREN'S WORSHIP CONFERENCE — Steve Greer, children's pastor, Indian Hills Church, North Little Rock, Ark., leads preschool leaders in worship songs. Preschool directors from around the country gathered in Nashville, Tenn., for the Children's Worship Conference held at LifeWay Christian Resources, March 20-22. Pamela Boucher was the coordinator of the Children's Worship Conference. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

young, he recounted, he began the practice of blessing her after she had said her prayers at bedtime. The tradition has continued with both his children, and he said he hopes they will remember that blessing when they face temptations as youth.

"It is as simple as placing my hand on their heads and saying, 'Be wise, be strong and be pure. In Jesus' name, amen.'"

Whether children worship with their

parents or in a separate children's service, Lewis said pastors and leaders should ask themselves if what takes place is meaningful and spiritually transforming to boys and girls.

Lewis listed five factors necessary for every worship service: God must be honored, the culture of the congregation should be engaged, intellect should be stimulated, hearts should be moved, and lives should be changed.

Today's children are growing up in a landscape completely different from that of their parents, Lewis noted.

"We must do everything we can to get our children to Jesus," he said. "If we don't get them to Jesus, there are too many other places that will get them."

LifeWay's church resources division sponsored the Children's Worship Conference. Special-interest seminars were offered, along with demonstrations of varied children's worship services.

Information about next year's Children's Worship Conference, March 19-21 in Nashville, may be directed to Pamela Boucher, children's worship consultant for LifeWay at (615) 251-3614 or by e-mail to pboucher@lifeway.com.

## DNA study: humans not linked to Neanderthals

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Two key samples of Neanderthal DNA "are different from that of modern humanity," according to a study in the journal Nature.

This finding "adds weight" to the view that Neanderthals "perished without contributing to" the human gene pool, Nature noted in its March 30 edition.

The finding runs counter to those in modern science who argue that humans evolved, at least partly, from Neanderthals. Others in secular science acknowledge, meanwhile, that Neanderthals are more like "cousins" rather than ancestors of modern humans.

In a March 29 report on ABC News' Internet site, researcher William Goodwin of the University of Glasgow in Scotland said of his study in Nature: "... there are no examples of humans having Neanderthal-type DNA."

Goodwin, in collaboration with scientists from Russia and Sweden, compared a DNA sequence from the bones of a Neanderthal baby found in Russia's Caucasus Mountains with a 1997 study of a DNA sequence from a Neanderthal skeleton found in Germany.

In scientific terms, according to ABCNEWS.com, the baby's DNA sequence in material within its cells known as "mitochondria" differed from the other Neanderthal

sequence in 3.5% of the locations tested, while the difference with humans was 7%, which, according to scientists, is substantial.

The Neanderthal baby, according to Nature's use of evolution-oriented dating, died

around 29,000 years ago.

Reuters and USA Today noted that Goodwin's study supports the theory of humans evolving from a common ancestor in Africa about 100,000 years ago according to evolution-oriented dating. According

to ABCNEWS.com, Goodwin said of his study, "I wouldn't claim this to be conclusive."

It is possible, for example, that humans and Neanderthals may have mated and produced sterile offspring, he acknowledged.



Ron M. Power, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

## LifeAnswers

My husband was the willing object of flirtations from a 16-year-old girl, until she told her parents some untruths and ruined his reputation in the church. Please tell adult men to be aware that this can happen to them with young girls.

Today's young people are much wiser about the world than we were at their age. The media assist and encourage them to grow up quicker and look for ways to control others. Young girls who have been hurt find ways to get back at any man so he will feel the pain she has felt. As Christians we are encouraged to be "wise as serpents and innocent as doves." Men should beware of finding themselves alone with

a young woman, especially men who have unmet needs and thus are vulnerable to such flirtatious situations. You are a very understanding wife. Work on reigniting your passion and love for each other. You have been given a wake-up call — use it wisely.

We have grown to love our ten-month old foster child as one of our own, but some people complained about him coming to church with us because he is of a different race. I have concluded from this sad experience that some Christians don't believe the Bible and are just acting the part.

Oh church, listen to this voice! Scripture tells us to give

water to the thirsty, food to the hungry, and to take in the orphan — then we criticize the ones who follow these teachings. How do we know that this child will not be the doctor who finds the cure for the common cold or cancer, or the next great preacher who brings true revival to our world? To the family, you must realize that change often breeds fear and uneasiness in people. It is essential that you take time to help others understand the diversity of God's Kingdom and be patient with those who would confine God to a box of their liking. Perfect love casts out fear! Continue to show the love of God in all this confusion, and maybe you can have an impact for the better.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.